

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 5, without prejudice, amend claim 1, and add new claims 10 and 11. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire, which includes a member attached to an inner surface of a tread thereof by use of an elastic fixing band, the member being independent from the tire, wherein the elastic fixing band is formed of a metallic band form with a width in a range of 10 to 40 mm and a thickness in a range of 0.1 to 0.5 mm, and the member is a sound absorbing member formed of a porous material.

2. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the band form is made of a metallic material having a tensile strength in a range of 400 to 1400 MPa.

3. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein an outer periphery of the elastic fixing band is covered with rubber or synthetic resin.

4. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a circumferential length of the elastic fixing band is set being 10 to 50 mm shorter than a circumferential length of the center of an inner periphery of the tire.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a circumferential length of the elastic fixing band is a fixed length.

7. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, comprising:

a stretching mechanism at least in one location on a circumference of the elastic fixing band, the stretching mechanism automatically adjusting a circumferential length of the elastic fixing band.

8. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 7, wherein the stretching mechanism is formed of an elastic spring mechanism.

9. (Original) The pneumatic tire according to claim 7, wherein the stretching mechanism is formed by coupling both ends of the elastic fixing band with each other in a manner that the elastic fixing band can slide.

10. (New) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the outer circumferential surface of the sound absorbing member and the inner circumferential surface of the elastic fixing band are joined together.

11. (New) The pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the inner circumferential surface of the sound absorbing member and the outer circumferential surface of the elastic fixing band are joined together.